

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S:FORTIZ:JLH

APPROVED BY S/S-MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 183169 TOSEC 080367

NODIS

CHEROKEE

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 5033 ACTION SECSTATE AUG 4.

QUOTE: S E C R E T TEL AVIV 5033

NODIS CHEROKEE

DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY FLASH

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS:PFOR, IS US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE FOR PRIME MINISTER RABIN

REF: SECTO 8123

1. I MET WITH RABIN AT 0800 TODAY--EARLIEST FEASIBLE OPPORTUNITY
FOLLOWING HIS RETURN LAST NIGHT FROM STOCKHOLM.

2. RABIN READILY ACQUIESCED IN MY SUGGESTION THAT WE MEET
ALONE. I TOLD HIM I WAS INSTRUCTED NOT TO LEAVE A COPY OF
PRESIDENT'S LETTER AND EXPLAINED WHY. I THEN HANDED HIM
TEXT WHICH HE READ WITH GREAT CARE BUT ON WHICH HE TOOK NO
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REPEAT NO NOTES.

3. RABIN SAID HE WAS UNHAPPY AT WAY OUR RELATIONS WERE DEVELOPING AND HE WAS SURE WE TOO WOULD LIKE TO AVOID FURTHER DETERIORATION. I AGREED AND ASKED FOR HIS SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED. RABIN SAID HE WOULD PREFER NOT REPEAT NOT MAKE FORMAL REPLY TO PRESIDENT'S LETTER AND ASKED ME TO SO TO INFORM WASHINGTON. HE HOPED PRESIDENT WOULD UNDERSTAND SPIRIT IN WHICH THIS SUGGESTION WAS PUT FORWARD; RABIN SIMPLY WANTED TO BRING TO A CLOSE AN EXCHANGE, WHICH, IF EXTENDED, WOULD ONLY FURTHER FRAY OUR RELATIONS AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE. IF OBLIGED TO REPLY, RABIN SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO REPEAT REBUTTAL STATEMENTS MADE BOTH THROUGH ME AND ISRAELI EMBASSY WASHINGTON IN PREVIOUS EXCHANGES.

4. TURNING TO SUBSTANCE OF LETTER, RABIN REGRETTED THERE HAD BEEN LEAKS--IN BOTH CAPITALS, HE SAID-- AND HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO PLUG THEM HERE. RE COMPLAINT OF ISRAELI PUBLIC REJECTION OF EGYPTIAN COUNTERPROPOSAL, HE COULD ONLY REPEAT WHAT HE HAD CONVEYED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES--I.E. IT WAS TV COMMENTARY AND NOT REPEAT NOT CABINET STATEMENT THAT USED THE TERM "REJECT". ON OUR VERSION OF CONTENTS OF DEMARCHES MADE BY ISRAELIS IN EUROPEAN CAPITALS, HE SIMPLY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW SUCH MISINFORMATION COULD ARISE. WHILE IT WAS POSSIBLE A ZEALOUS AMBASSADOR OR TWO MAY HAVE STRETCHED OR EMBELLISHED INSTRUCTIONS, HE DID NOT THINK SO AND IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT IN NO CAPITAL HAD ISRAELIS STATED US SUPPORTED ISRAELI PROPOSALS OR PRESSED FOR INTERCESSION WITH EGYPTIANS. SO DISTRESSED WAS HE BY THIS CHARGE THAT IN STOCKHOLM WITHOUT IN ANY WAY REVEALING US DISPLEASURE HE HAD SPECIFICALLY ASKED WILSON IF ANY ISRAELI SPOKESMAN AT ANY LEVEL HAD TAKEN THIS LINE WITH BRITISH PRIME MINISTER OR HIS SUBORDINATES. WILSON HAD SAID NO CATEGORICALLY.

5. I TOLD RABIN I WOULD REPEAT HIS SUGGESTION AND COMMENTS TO THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY. RABIN SAID HE HOPED FOR EARLY POSITIVE REPLY; MEANWHILE HE WOULD SAY NOTHING TO HIS COLLEAGUES ABOUT LETTER OR OUR EXCHANGE.

TOON

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 08/04/75, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, PEACE PLANS, NEGOTIATIONS, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE183169
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FORTIZ:JLH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N750003-0145
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750884/aaaacwor.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 SECTO 8123
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE FOR PRIME MINISTER RABIN
TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, EG, (FORD, GERALD R), (RABIN, YITZHAK)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006